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Legislative Body of *KNIGHTS' TEMPLARS*,

RESPECTFULLY REPORT,

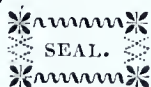
import has been issued by an Encampment of Knights' Templars, assembling at Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, under a Warrant granted by the General Grand Encampment of the United States, viz:

*Pittsburg, Pennsa. Sept. 8, 1848.*

To the Most E. G. C., Officers and Sir Knights of                      Encampment  
of Knights' Templars and Knights of Malta, of the Order of St. John  
of Jerusalem, and to all true and courteous Sir Knights, wherever dis-  
persed throughout the world—*greeting*:

BE IT KNOWN UNTO YOU, That on the 6th inst. at a stated meeting of Pittsburg Encampment No. 1, (working in Pittsburg, Pennsa., under a Charter, granted by the General Grand Encampment of the U. S. of A.) the M. E. G. C. gave information of the existence in Philadelphia, Pa. of a clandestine body of men, styling themselves an "Encampment of Knights Templars and the appendant orders," working under, what they claim to be, a Revived Charter of an Encampment, legally constituted many years ago, by the then Grand Encampment of Pennsylvania. This latter body was organized in 1814, by Delgates from the States of New York, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland, but has been extinct for many years, while the subordinate one (which is now pretended to be resuscitated) had ceased to labour for the last 20 or 25 years, and is therefore condemned as an illegal body, by the Constitution and By-Laws of the Grand Encampment, to which it originally owed its existence. Sections 9th and 18th of the By-Laws, Rules and Regulations aforesaid, provide that if any Subordinate Encampment shall cease to meet for the space of one year, its Warrant shall be forfeited. The Creature and Creator both being dead, we cannot conceive of any power competent to resuscitate either, and in view of these circumstances, it was unanimously *Resolved*, by Pittsburg Encampment No. 1, (the only legally constituted one in this Commonwealth) that the M. E. G. C. and Recorder address Circulars to all regular Encampments in the U. States and the Canadas, giving the facts of the case, and cautioning the Sir Knights against visit-

ing the said Illegal Association, or holding fellowship with any one hailing therefrom.



With our best wishes for the prosperity and purity of the Order

We are Fraternally and truly Yours,

M. E. Sir, A. M'CAMMON, G. C.

Sir A. G. Reinhart, Recorder.

This Circular (as herein stated) has been sent to the various Encampments in the United States and Canadas, and we may add in a large number of instances, (within the knowledge of many members of this Encampment) to Royal Arch Masons, who are not Knights' Templars.

This Circular makes the following assertions:

1. That this Encampment was, in the beginning, legally constituted.
2. That its Charter having expired, it claims at present to work under a Revived Charter.
3. That it had ceased to labour for 20 or 25 years, and is therefore condemned, as illegal, by the Constitution and By-Laws of the Body to which it owed its existence: in proof of which, the 9th and 18th Sections of the By-Laws, Rules and Regulations are quoted.

The *first* assertion being correct and therefore undisputed by either party, it follows, that if the present Encampment can be proven not to have violated the Rules and Regulations of the Body which gave it existence and thereby forfeited its Warrant, it is still a Legitimate Body.

As to the *2nd* and *3d* assertions they are not sustained by the facts of the case; and as in these assertions is contained the whole question at issue, they alone require to be refuted.

A comparison of dates will show that this Encampment has not ceased to work for 20 or 25 years, having adjourned temporarily in 1835, and re-assembled in 1848.

2. The 9th and 18th sections quoted must have been taken from the earliest copy of the By-Laws, Rules and Regulations of the Grand Encampment of Pennsylvania, printed in 1814: Since which time, they have been materially modified, as appears by the original minutes of said Gd. Encampment of Pennsylvania now in the possession of this Encampment.

The Sections referred to (unamended) are as follows:

9. Every Encampment under the jurisdiction of this Grand Encampment shall, on or before the second Friday in June, in every year, transmit to the Grand Recorder a complete list of all their Members, with the time of their having been Initiated, or Admitted Members: a copy of their By-Laws and a copy of such alterations or additions as shall have been made to their By-Laws since the last copy may have been so transmitted: a list of deaths, rejections of candidates, and expulsions, and Suspension of Members: together with a Return of their Election of Officers for the ensuing year. Every Encampment refusing or neglecting to make a Return as aforesaid, shall be *liable* to forfeit their Warrant, *unless satisfactory reasons shall be given and admitted.*

18. Every Encampment under this jurisdiction ought to meet at least quarterly, (but oftener if convenient) for the purpose of perfecting themselves as Knight Templars: and such as shall not meet for the space of one year shall forfeit all their privileges under this Grand Encampment, and the name of their Warrant shall be struck from the Record of the same, *unless some sufficient reason* be offered to induce a forbearance.

Such were the 9th and 18th Sections as *first* published; but on the 15th of June, 1823, the 9th article was amended in the latter clause, to read thus: "Every Encampment neglecting or refusing to make such Return for Two years, shall forfeit all the privileges of their Warrant, *if the Return be not made within six months after being notified* to such effect by the Grand Recorder, *unless a reasonable excuse be given for such neglect.*"

Under this 9th Rule therefore, as amended, in order to work a forfeiture of the Charter, *it is requisite* that an Encampment should fail to make its Returns for two years: *that six months notice should be given* by the Gd. Recorder, and *after both these*, that a *reasonable excuse should be made* to be given for such neglect."

Now if void for the first of these reasons, the Charter was null and void for the whole period of time from 1825\* up to 1835, when this Encampment adjourned temporarily; no less than 10 years, during which time this Encampment, No. 4, held communication with and admitted visitors from nearly all the Encampments in the U. States, including that of Pittsburg.

Again, If void for the second of these requisites, where is the notice as above required? none had been received up to the period of adjournment in 1835, nor any since. For these reasons then, and inasmuch as the Grand Encampment of Pennsylvania has not, as yet, by any vote forfeited the Warrant of this *Encampment* (a necessary step before forfeiture), it follows, that the Warrant was good up to 1835, and if good till then, (by nonforfeiture) so it is good in 1848 and 1849.

18th Section. This section was, at the same time as above, amended by striking out all after the words "Knights' Templars," and substituting therefor, the following: "*and can also meet on its own adjournments, or at the call of the Eminent Grand Master.*"

Here then we see that a Charter was not to be forfeited, for failure to meet for the space of a year, but the power was actually given to an Encampment to adjourn indefinitely, and re-assemble at the call of the Eminent Grand Master. In further proof of which, the 2nd Section of Article 2, of the Constitution of the Grand Encampment of Pennsylvania was, at the same time amended, by adding thereto, "*And the Officers thus elected shall continue in office until their successors are duly elected.*"

Bearing in mind these laws as amended, the answer to both of the last assertions in said Circular, becomes but a simple matter of history. "In the year 1835, St. John's Encampment No. 4, (for reasons of its own, not necessary to be here detailed,) adjourned to meet at the call of the E. G. Master, as evidenced by the minutes and the recollections of its then active members. This call was to be issued when those reasons which urged an adjournment were removed. This took place in the month of April, in the year 1848, when the Eminent Grand Master of the Encampment called the Members together: when the requisite number being present, the Sir Knights proceeded in the business of the Encampment, and from time to time added many new members.

Hence the conclusion is inevitable, that inasmuch as this Encampment has not, according to the Constitution, By-Laws, Rules and Regulations of the Grand Encampment of Pennsylvania, forfeited its Charter, it therefore never became extinct, and if never extinct, it is *not* now a *revived* Charter.

The connection between the present and former work of the Encampment, having been thus clearly established, we now turn to seek the effect

\* The Grand Encampment of Pennsylvania adjourned in 1823.

of the issue of this Circular. What other effect can be produced, than that the Encampment at Pittsburg has pronounced itself and all other Encampments in the United States which may choose to combine with it, as "Illegal and Clandestine;" unless the Encampment No. 4, shall choose to recognize them, seeing that the *Warrant of St. John's Encampment No. 4, claims priority*, in point of date to that of the present Warrant of the Pittsburg Encampment, or even of the General Grand Encampment of the United States itself.

It is indeed surprising that the Encampment at Pittsburg should have committed an error so dangerous to themselves, and fraught with such pernicious consequences to peace and harmony in the Masonic World, as to have made public a statement reflecting, without cause or offence given, upon Members of their own Craft and Knighthood; without any citation from them, or (even if they were competent or justified in setting themselves up as our judges) without even asking or seeking a word of explanation as to how or by what right we claim to be Legitimate Members of the Order.

Your Committee might enlarge upon these points, and propose measures of retaliation; the Members of the Pittsburg Encampment having acted contrary to the express regulations of the Rt. Worshipful the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, by applying for and obtaining a Charter from a jurisdiction out of the State of Pennsylvania. But retaliation is not our object, or your Committee could further call your attention to a flagrant breach of Masonic Rule and Order upon the part of the Pittsburg Encampment, in sending this Circular to R. A. Masons and others: persons, who having never taken the Orders of Knighthood, are unable from the nature of the case to converse upon the subject with Members of the Encampment, whereby the truth might be elicited: thereby showing that the issue of the aforesaid publication, has not so much for its object, the preservation of the purity of the Order, as to gratify a spirit of jealousy, and to injure an Encampment, containing many Members, whose characters and unblemished reputations within and without the Masonic Order, place them above all suspicions and insinuations that they would countenance for one moment a dishonorable or Unmasonic act.

Your Committee conclude with offering the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That the above Report as presented and signed by the Committee, be issued in the form of a Circular, to be also signed by the three First Chiefs, and attested by the Recorder, to all Encampments throughout the United States and Canadas.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Philada., May 25, 1849.

ANTHONY E. STOCKER,	} Committee.
D. C. SKERRETT,	
JOHN THOMAS,	

ALEXANDER DIAMOND, *E. G. M.*

JOHN REYNOLDS, *Generalissimo.*

CHARLES B. HEADLEY, *Capt. General.*

Extract from the Minutes.

**WILLIAM H. ADAMS,**  
Recorder.